

DDS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Minutes
March 23, 2016

Members Present: Deputy Commissioner Scheff, Representative Abercrombie, Bill Halsey, Judy Dowd, Doriana Vicedomini, Ann Gionet, Nikki Richer, Sara Lourie, Marcia Eckerd, Yana Razumnaya, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Jim Loomis, Lois Rosenwald, Beth Leslie, Zachary Laudano, John Pelegano

Members Absent: Wendy Campbell, Ruth Eren, Kathy Marchione, John Molteni, Lynn Ricci, Isabelina Rodriguez, Robert Shea

Call to Order: 10:15 am

Welcome and Introduction: Representative Abercrombie

Deputy Commissioner Scheff: Brief Update

- Governor's budget proposed transferring autism lead agency status and program resources from DDS to DSS effective July 1, 2016. The Governor's intent was that the program move intact. Work is ongoing to determine the resources necessary for transfer.

Questions/Comments:

- There was confirmation that everyone on lifespan waiver would be going to DSS. About 100 individuals are enrolled. 30 are under age 21 and receive BSP services. Transitions are still being discussed.
- Some discussion about whether there had been adequate outreach to solicit opinions about the Governor's proposal. Representative Abercrombie assured the council that she has taken suggestions and legislatures have reached out to people in their districts.
- There was assurance that there should be little to no disruption of services.
- There was discussion about how the transition would actually roll out. Which positions would move, etc. Deputy Commissioner Scheff assured the council that discussions have already begun with DSS and that both agencies would be aiming to make it a smooth transition. There was a caution that collective bargaining agreements will dictate which case managers ultimately get transferred with the program.
- It was suggested that a Q and A document be prepared to put on both agency websites that would answer questions of individuals, families and providers.
- Representative Abercrombie shared with the council why she personally supports the Governor's proposal. She believes that moving the program would ultimately be better for families because there is more flexibility with dollars in DSS and potentially opportunities for other benefits and services.
- There was a suggestion that when the state's financial position improves, the autism division hire a Self-Advocate Coordinator position.

- ASRC reported that they had spent the last few months researching the potential move and believe that this is the best thing for the autism community and are hoping it happens.

Approval of 12/16/2015 Minutes:

- Doriana Vicedomini made a motion to accept the minutes.
- John Pelegano seconded the approval.

DSS updates:

- Bill Halsey reported that he has been working to address access issues around treatment bottlenecks with the implementation of the state plan services. He has been researching fee schedules with CMS, Beacon and providers about Medicaid coverage of the program book, adding direct observation, tech code, and social skills with the goal of getting more treatment providers enrolled in the Medicaid program.

DMHAS updates:

- Nikki Richer reported that they have begun work on a waiver that will cover four services provided to their young adult services population: Behavioral supports, life skill coaches, continuous residential and social skills training and that they are hoping to get off the ground soon. (75-100 slots)

OPM updates:

- Judy Dowd reported that additional work will be happening around the possibility of accessing private insurance and private pay where possible.

Updates from Debra Anderson on autism. She reported that:

- She has not been able to get the feasibility study group leaders together since the last meeting.
- DDS has been working to set up training for direct care staff.
- The Early Childhood Autism Waiver currently has 22 individuals. 12 children have had transition meetings to start the transfer to the state plan services. 5 more are in progress. 5 individuals have Husky B so will stay on until they age out of services. DSS has been monitoring new applications.
- There are 102 individuals on the lifespan waiver. DDS was able to move 5 individuals off of the waitlist. 29 BSP children are on the lifespan waiver and that there are 849 individuals on waitlist.
- All feasibility projects are up and running.
- The Hospital for Special Care has 4 children. 3 are inpatient. 31 of 38 staff have been hired.
- PRTF project – first part was to develop a curriculum. Details and data will be presented at the June meeting.
- She reassured the council members that the council will continue to meet regardless of where the program is located and that once the budget passes and we know for sure where the program resides, that there should be a

meeting to discuss the next steps. It was suggested that there should be more members with families.

- There was a reminder that Autism Awareness Day will be April 6th and encouraged council members to come and help spread the word.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn. 11:49am

Next meeting is **Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

10:00am-12:00pm

Legislative Office Building

Room to be announced